

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I am writing concerning MB Docket # 04-160.

I am a small-town physician with large-city musical tastes. I live in a town of approximately 5000 persons but appreciate music as widely ranging as reggae, opera and African themes. For this reason I became a subscriber to satellite radio about two years ago. I continue to listen to our local radio stations for strictly local content.

I often travel to San Francisco and Oakland to see friends and family. Not being from the Bay Area, I am not immediately familiar with terrestrial radio stations that carry current traffic information. Unless the traffic reports were currently playing over the air, scanning the radio dial wouldn't be of any help either. Furthermore, to be of use, traffic reports would have to be available to me at a distance from the Bay Area, and terrestrial radio signal is usually not strong enough to give me a signal in time to use the information.

I have found the traffic and weather report on my satellite radio to be the ideal way to get a heads-up on the traffic situation on both the Golden Gate Bridge and the Oakland Bay Bridge while still many miles north of the Bay area so that I may decide which route to take well ahead of time. These bridges and other roads can be congested even in off-commute times, and the broadcast from my satellite radio is current 24 hours a day, unlike the traffic reports on terrestrial stations which are typically only heard during commute hours.

Gasoline is now \$2.23 a gallon here in my hometown! If I can avoid burning fuel sitting in a traffic jam by learning of one early enough to avoid it, I certainly appreciate it. The traffic reports on satellite radio give me the information I need to save driving costs and make driving safer and more enjoyable.

I would urge you to deny the NAB petition for docket 04-160.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R Susman, MD
Fort Bragg, CA